is proposed to be reduced from 60 to 58 years which was raised from 58 to 60 last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are aware of the hardship the employees have to face due to sudden downward revision of retirement age within a year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines is considering a proposal to reduce the retirement age from 60 to 58 years with a view to improving aircraft to employee ratio and effect savings. The decision will be taken after giving due consideration to all aspects of the matter.

Commencement of Cargo Movement from Guwahati Airport

1995. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether cargo movement from Guwahati Airport has commenced;

(b) if so, the details of facilities created and cargo moved so far and formalities required to be completed for its full operation;

(c) if not, the details of constraint, anticipated solution and target fixed; and

(d) the facilities required to be created to commence international flight operations from Guwahati Airport and target date fixed for such operation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIAITON (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. So far four consignments of cargo consisting of potato seeds, cut and polished sattans and carbon blades have been exported out of Guwahati airport.

(b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has provided accommodation for processing & export/import cargo at Guwahati airport. The Customs Department has been allotted necessary office space at the Airport. A walk in cooler facility has also been set up for perishable cargo.

(c) Does not airse.

(d) With the available facilities, Airlines are free to operate international cargo flights from Guwahati airport.

Guwahati Airport as an International Airport

1996. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the arrangements completed so far for making Guwahati a Regional hub and International Airport;

(b) the total outlays, commission schedule and progress of work on the above;

(c) the action contemplated to deal with the very poor quality of work of the domestic terminal buildings at Guwahati;

(d) the list of incomplete work including extension of apron and taxi stand provision of aero-bridge and central air-conditioning; and

(e) the progress of work and target fixed for completion of terminal building and other projects on hand?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (e) The Guwahati Airport has been developed as a "MODEL AIRPORT" and works relating to Arrival Hall and the extension of apron to accommodate six aircraft have been completed.

The total outlay for development of infrastructure facilities at Guwahati airport during 9th Plan period is Rs. 65 crores. The list of works which are at hand, are expansion of domestic terminal building, strengthening of runway, and construction of operational boundary wall. The progress achieved in the expansion of terminal building is 84% and is likely to be completed by July, 2000. Mobilisation of plant and machinery materials is in progress for strengthening of runway and construction of boundary wall which are likely to be completed by December, 2000 and August, 2001 respectively. The central Air-Conditioning work of the terminal building is expected to be completed by December, 2000. Provision of aero-bridge will depend upon the traffic potential and usage of larger aircraft.